



Saint Louis Audubon

Bulletin

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WISCONSIN AUDUBON CAMP ACCEPTING ENROLLEES

Adult enrollees from all over the nation are rapidly filling this summer's sessions at the new midwestern Audubon Camp near Spooner and Rice Lake, Wisconsin, according to reports from National Audubon Society.

Men and women from 18 states already are signed up for two-week sessions which begin June 26. Some will come from such distant points as California, Florida, Texas, and New York, though it is anticipated that this first Audubon Camp in the midwest will attract the bulk of its enrollment from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois.

Construction of new buildings and alteration of existing ones at the camp site in northwestern Wisconsin is about completed. Three new dormitory buildings will house 50 adult students.

Carl W. Buchheister of New York City, senior vice-president of the National Audubon Society, who has just inspected the 330-acre camp property in Wisconsin's scenic lake country, stated, "Everything is in readiness for our first season of operation as a nature and conservation training center. I am tremendously impressed with the beauty of the location and the variety of habitats that it offers for study of the outdoor world and the interrelationships that bind our natural resources into a living whole."

Mr. Buchheister added, "It is safe to say that everyone who attends this Audubon Camp will come away with a sharpened perception of the natural world around them -- including plants, insects, weather, geology, birds, mammals, etc. They will return to their home communities with a desire to share this new knowledge with others."

The Camp has a staff of experienced naturalists who accompany small groups on field trips, give informal talks, and supervise projects. The Camp motto is "Have fun while learning." There are no book assignments nor tests. Above the minimum age of 18, people of all ages and walks of life can

and do participate in the sessions. None of the hiking on field trips is strenuous; on longer trips the groups travel by station wagon or bus.

Sessions for this summer start on June 26, July 10, July 24, August 7, and August 21. Cost, which includes accommodations, meals, and tuition, is \$95 per person. Walter W. Engelke of Madison will be the resident director.

For reservations write to National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, New York.

LECTURE SCHEDULE FOR 1955-1956 SEASON

The St. Louis Audubon Society has received a very fortunate drawing in the allotment of lectures for the coming Season. Headlined by the nation's most widely known ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson, it should prove to be a most interesting season. Remember this year all lectures will be offered free to the public by the Audubon Society as a public service. Tell your friends about this most enjoyable way to spend an evening. Circle these dates now; you cannot afford to miss one of these.

Monday, October 17, 1955, Alexander Sprunt, Jr. The Cypress Kingdom.

Tuesday, December 6, 1955, Roger Tory Peterson, Wild America.

Thursday, January 26, 1956, Howard Cleaves, Animals at Night in Color.

Monday, March 19, 1956, Robert P. Allen, The Long Flight Back.

Monday, April 30, 1956, William H. Wagoner, Jr., Wanderland.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

516 Bacon Avenue, Webster Groves 19, Mo.

DUES cover also National Audubon Society Membership.

Student	\$ 2	Active	\$ 25
Regular	5	Supporting	50
Husband-Wife, Regular	8	Contributing	100
Sustaining	10	Life	200
Husband-Wife, Sustaining	18		

Membership includes subscription to Audubon Magazine. Student Membership includes subscription to Canadian Illustrated.

In addition to membership dues, many members make special gifts to enable the St. Louis Society to carry on other activities, and this is most warmly appreciated.

In order to carry out our program of presenting the Screen Tours free to the public of Greater St. Louis, it is necessary that we have even a higher number of regular members. Contact your friends, tell them of the conservation work done by the Audubon Society at both National and Local levels. Many of them would like to be associated with us.



Observations

J. Earl Comfort



The 1955 St. Louis Area birding has been done under both pleasant conditions and extreme difficulties with an unprecedented blizzard on Mar. 25th and a week end of near zero temperature the following 2 days.

The months of Jan., Feb. and Mar. have produced migrants in more or less normal numbers. Exceptions were the scarcity of wintering sapsuckers, brown creepers, gold-en-crowned kinglets and grackles. Unusually common wintering species were canvasback ducks, red-breasted nuthatches and robins.

Highlights of the year's finds from the lister's standpoint were 2 white-winged cross bills at the Shaw's Garden Arboretum at Gray's Summit found by Dave and Lance Jones the first week in Jan. Several other observers found the birds during the month.

On Jan. 15th, Lance Jones and Dick Collier, located a lone red crossbill at the Arboretum. Other observers were Earl Hath, Dave Jones and Earl Comfort.

On Jan. 22nd, Bruce Dowling and Jim Comfort observed a Harlan's hawk in St. Charles Co. near O'Fallon.

Mar. 19th gave us a male cinnamon teal at the Grand Marais Temp Clair marshes in St. Charles Co. Fortunate observers were Alberta Bolinger, Earl Hath, Stoner Haven and Earl Comfort. The following day the bird was found there by Kurt Wesseling. Nineteen species of ducks were reported over this week end.

On Feb. 26th our large group found both a white-winged scoter and an old squaw duck above the Alton Dam.

On the monthly census at the August A. Busch Wildlife Area at Weldon Springs a white-fronted goose furnished the birding thrill of the day on Mar. 13th.

April 2nd provided an eared grebe on one of the Grand Marais State Park lakes in East St. Louis. The rare grebe was an exceptional find because it was in breeding plumage. Most of our rare grebes, when and if they are located, depart before the nuptial plumage is in season.

In April 19th Victor Blasavic, Federal wildlife agent, found a cattle egret at a St. Charles Co. hunting club. This is our first record of this wanderer from Africa, which derives its name from its habit of feeding at the feet of cattle a la our cowbird. Colored pictures were taken of the rare bird. The following day the agent and Bruce Dowling, of the August A. Busch Wildlife Area, found both Hudsonian and marbled godwits on the grounds that attracted the egret.

Bruce Dowling, trapping and banding ducks at the Busch refuge, identified a captive hybrid as a blue-winged-cinnamon teal. The strange duck was given to Bill Conway, curator of birds, and is on display at the Forest Park zoo.

The St. Louis Audubon Society Shaw's Garden bird walks and the first 3 Forest Park St. Louis Audubon walks showed migration behind schedule and bird species far below par. The same held true of the Society's annual Spring census of May first when some 150 species were recorded in spite of favorable weather in comparison to lists of 175 to 190 in past years. Two of the rarer species found were yellow palm warbler and Florida gallinule.

The Possum Trot Farm picnic of the Society in May 7th was favored by the weather with 224 attending. We found the Halls' reputation for hospitality and friendliness was well deserved. The bird walks in several groups, both in the morning and afternoon resulted in 76 species being listed on the famous farm. Most interesting birds were bluegrosbeak and bobolinks. The dinner served by a local Methodist church was one of the highlights of the trip. Everywhere orderly co-operation and friendliness was the order of the day.

On the St. Charles Annual Audubon Walk at Creve Couer led by Beulah Bedell on May 14th warblers were few, but Alberta Bolinger and Frances Pickel were made happy by a migrant adult Swainson's hawk.

On May 22nd Dick Anderson flushed a glossy Ibis from the St. Charles Marshes along Highway 94.

TURKEYS STOCKED IN MISSOURI REFUGE

A press release from the Missouri Conservation Commission states that another step on the road back for wild turkey hunting in Missouri will be taken soon with establishment of an experimental flock of wild turkeys at Swan Lake National Migratory Waterfowl refuge, in the heart of their former Northwest Missouri range.

M. O. Steen, chief of the Conservation Commission's Fish and Game Division, reports that 42 semi-wild turkeys have been purchased in Maryland for late October release on the refuge, where management and habitat conditions are believed favorable to establishment of a permanent flock. "If this experiment is successful," Steen said, "we may have a short-cut in bringing turkeys back to a shootable abundance."

Birds being purchased are a strain developed at Woodmont Rod and Gun Club, Hancock, Maryland. Turkeys from this source have been released in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota, Louisiana, and Ohio.

"The most important ingredient in the experiment is public cooperation and past successes with deer stocking in this area received so much public support that we feel certain of that support back of this project," he concluded.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY GOES TO COLLEGE

by Elizabeth Golterman

During the 1955 spring term at Harris Teachers College, the St. Louis Audubon Society assisted in giving a two credit course in ornithology, for teachers of the metropolitan St. Louis area.

Thirty four teachers, representing almost every grade from kindergarten through high school, were in the class which met on Tuesday afternoons from 4:15 to 5:50, from February through May.

Dr. K. C. Sullivan, chairman of the Harris biology department, was instructor and coordinator of the course, with the general assistance of Earl Hath. Among the twenty Audubon Society members who presented various phases of bird study at individual class sessions were: Elisha Atkins, Earl and James Comfort, Wm. G. Conway, Rex Conyers, Bruce Dowling, David M. Jones, J. Marshall Magner, Lester Newman, J. Gilbert Princell, Max Schwarz, Elinor Hayward, Aphrodite Hofsommer, Ernestine Magner, Bertha Massie, R. Lewis Vollmar, Beulah Bedell, Lucy C. Elliott, Elizabeth Golterman and Alberta Meyer.

Class sessions at Harris Teachers College were supplemented with sessions at the St. Louis Zoo's Bird House, at the Division of Audio-Visual Education and at the home of Mrs. Vollmar to study her collection of bird paintings, sketches and prints. Field trips, under the leadership of Earl Comfort, and Earl Hath, were made on Saturdays in the Weldon Springs and St. Charles County areas.

The cooperative plan through which this ornithology class was given, as a fully accredited course for teachers, is the first of its kind in the country, so far as we know. It represents an important extension of the educational service of the Audubon Society. It promises to have a real influence on the boys and girls of this community, through the enthusiasm, interest and increased knowledge of the teachers who participated in this course.

AUDUBON STATE PARK HENDERSON, KENTUCKY

On April 16 and 17, the St. Louis Audubon Society had an overnight field trip to Audubon State Park located about three miles north of Henderson, Kentucky. It was a memorable trip for all who attended. Not only did we see and examine at our leisure the John James Audubon Memorial Museum which houses the worlds largest collection of original paintings and other Audubonia, but we also seemed to catch some of the spirit of the age in which this great Frenchman lived, for many of the great naturalist artist's works were inspired while living here.

Miss Amelia Klutey, our hostess in charge of the museum,

gave us many interesting sidelights on the various items contained in the building which is of French Provincial design, and here again, one had the feeling that Audubon, if alive today, would feel he was at home in his native France.

Conducted by Miss Smith, president of the Henderson Audubon Society and former president of the Evansville, Indiana Audubon Society; Mr. King Benson, Park Naturalist and Mr. W. R. Rhoads of the Henderson Audubon Society, our group was privileged to have a guided tour over the trails in the Park, much of which has been left to exist in its natural state. Many wildflowers were in bloom with hillsides covered with Blue Eyed Marys and Great Trillium. Forty-two species of birds were observed, including six species of warblers. It was noted that several of these warblers were about one week ahead of their appearance in the St. Louis area. Also seen were Blue gray Gnatcatchers and Summer and Scarlet Tanagers which had not yet appeared in our area.

After a most enjoyable Saturday and Sunday we left for home late in the afternoon feeling this was a trip long to be remembered and one to be taken again next year.

WEBSTER GROVES BIRD SANCTUARY DEDICATED

By Mrs. John M. Longmire

Down in Blackburn Park, in southeastern Webster Groves is a wood that the city has surrounded and passed by. The land slopes sharply to the rising sun, densely wooded at its heights, a flowery meadow with towering elms at its base. Long ago, a tiny spring burst forth from a limestone ledge, wore itself a miniature cave and now meandered across the field. The trees stand straight and tall, an example of what our whole area must once have been. Here are oaks of many kinds, elms, hickories, black walnuts, wild cherries, crab apples and mulberrys. Underneath flourishes a thick growth of saplings entwined with woodbine, wild grape, clematis and blackberries. Paths begun long ago lead up and down, cool and silent with fallen leaves. Wild flowers thrive: violets, may apples, toothwort, penstamen, and solomon's seal. Above and everywhere, filling the air with song and bright color is a world of birds. This is our bird sanctuary, new to us, but a haven for birds perhaps for thousands of years.

Mrs. Julian Kay, last year's president of all of the Webster Groves Garden Club groups, founded the sanctuary. The Kiwanis Club gave and planted six Missouri cedars. The Junior Nature groups of the Garden Club, anxious to take care of wrens and to entice bluebirds, built and put in place 15 bird houses. A large and complicated bird feeder, the work of Mr. Edgar Wiekhorst, was given and now stands near the spring. An ornamental wrought iron entrance marker was donated. It was made by the Bruno Schloemp Iron Company, masters in their craft.

On Sunday afternoon, May 22nd, the sanctuary was dedicated

with music and singing. Just as the high school band, resplendent in orange suits, had finished a patriotic number and was attacking "Davy Crockett" spiritedly, the heavens opened and a cloudburst fell upon everything. Musicians and audience, drenched, fled for shelter. As suddenly as it came, the shower passed, the sun shone and our trees gleamed emerald green. All at once numbers of birds sang loudly. The program went on accompanied by the flute like melodies of wood thrushes. Troop 303, Boy Scouts, marched with gay banners and gave an impressive "salute to the flag". The Star Spangled Banner was sung. Mayor Guffy made a fine talk, Mrs. Earl Hath, State Bird Chairman of the Garden Clubs, spoke charmingly, commending the work of the Webster clubs and thanked in turn the Junior Nature groups, the Kiwanis Club and the donor of the entrance marker.

During April and May the sanctuary's first bird count was made. Sixty varieties of birds were found. Purple finches, Olive-backed thrushes and a lone Hermit were the high lights. At least a dozen kinds of wood warblers trilled and sparkled in the tree tops and thickets. The one bird, most appropriate, for the location appeared; the splendid flame-throated Blackburnian warbler. All of the common woodpeckers were present, but, alas, no Pileated. Sparrows came and went: Junco, Tree, Field, Vesper, Song, Chipping and plaintive voiced White-throat.

So, here in Webster Groves, in Blackburn Park we have a true sanctuary; birds to admire and bird song to enjoy. Here is nature to study: birds, flowers, trees and a little lesson in geology, a true Missouri spring, sinkholes and no doubt caves. It should prove a joy for all of us now and for generations to come, a Bird Sanctuary Forever.

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